

The Community Services Block Grant Allocation Plan

FFY 2010

October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010

Submitted by:
Commissioner Michael P. Starkowski
Connecticut Department of Social Services
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THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION PLAN FFY 2010

October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010

I. OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

A. Purpose

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services through its administrative agency, the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services. The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) is designated as the principal state agency for the allocation and administration of the block grant within the state of Connecticut.

The purposes of the Community Services Block Grant are:

1. To provide assistance to states and local communities, working through a network of community action agencies for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals to become fully self-sufficient (particularly families who are attempting to transition off a state program carried out under part A of the Social Security Act (42 USC 601, et. Seq.)); and
2. To accomplish the goals described in paragraph (1) through:
 - a) the strengthening of community capabilities for planning and coordinating a broad range of federal, state, local and private resources related to the elimination of poverty, so that these resources can be used in a manner responsive to local needs and conditions;
 - b) the coordination of a range of services to meet the needs of low-income families and individuals, so that these services have a measurable impact on the reduction of poverty in the community and in helping families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency;
 - c) the promotion of innovative and effective community-based approaches to addressing the causes and effects of poverty and community breakdown;
 - d) the promotion of participation by the low-income residents and members of the groups served by programs funded through block grants made under this subtitle in planning and coordinating activities and programs designed to respond to the unique problems and needs within their communities; and

e) the broadening of the resource base for programs directed at the elimination of poverty so as to secure a more active role in the provision of services for:

(1) Private religious, charitable, and neighborhood-based organizations; and

(2) Individual citizens, business, labor, and professional groups, who are able to influence the quantity and quality of opportunities and services for the poor.

B. Major Use of Funds

As federally mandated, at least ninety percent (90%) of the funds made available to the state must be used to make grants to Community Action Agencies (CAAs), Community Action Programs (CAPs) or Limited Purpose Agencies (LPAs) that performed the functions of a Community Action Agency in fiscal year 1981, or their successors. These funds must be used for purposes consistent with the federal goals identified above.

There are currently twelve CAAs and one LPA that qualify for CSBG funding in Connecticut. Each CAA has a specified service area. In Connecticut, CSBG funds are primarily used by CAAs to provide planning and coordination, organize services, encourage innovative and effective approaches to addressing the causes of poverty, broadening the resource base for programs and services, and for core administrative expenses. With CSBG as base funding, CAAs operate a wide range of programs with other funds from DSS (including, but not limited to, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, and Child Day Care), other state agencies, federal agencies and municipalities, as well as private donations.

CAAs also prepare annual Community Action Plans, as required under the Act, which address how the goals of the block grant will be furthered by the efforts of the entire Community Action Agency, rather than just those programs funded directly or indirectly by CSBG. CSBG funds must be used to serve or improve the well being of individuals with incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty level. CSBG funds may not be used to support political activities or to pay for construction unless a specific waiver is obtained by the state from the federal government.

The state is permitted to retain up to five percent (5%) of the Block Grant for administration, and may use the remainder of the funds allocated for a variety of purposes including, but not limited to, training, technical assistance and capacity building for eligible entities, and innovative programs that further the purposes of the Act.

C. Federal Allotment Process

CSBG funds are allotted based on the national appropriation and the states' share of funds distributed under Sec. 221 of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 for federal fiscal year 1981.

D. Estimated Federal Funding

For purposes of this plan, the federal funding allocation for Connecticut for FFY 2010 is estimated to be \$8,404,600, which is \$11,217 higher than the state's final FFY 2009 allocation.

E. Estimated Expenditures and Proposed Allocations

Provisions of Section 210 of the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 include requirements that at least ninety percent (90%) of the funds made available to the state must be used to make grants to CAAs or LPAs. Accordingly, the state proposes approximately ninety percent (90%) or \$7,564,140 of the 2010 block grant be granted to CAAs and LPAs in Connecticut. The state plans to retain approximately five percent (5%) of the FFY 2010 funds or \$420,230 for administration. The balance of the allocation, \$420,230 (5%) will be used for discretionary projects that may include training, technical assistance, technology support, statewide projects and innovative programs related to the purposes of the Act. Carry forward of any previous year CSBG funds (currently estimated at \$529,960) will be utilized in Grants to Eligible Entities. The distribution of funds to eligible entities is based on a formula referenced in Sec. 17b-888 of the Connecticut General Statutes and further described in Section H below.

F. Proposed Allocation Changes From Last Year

To more accurately target and reflect the population to be served, the formula used in the distribution of funds to CAAs will be based on the 2000 census rather than the 1990 census.

G. Contingency Plan

This allocation plan has been prepared under the assumption that the FFY 2010 Community Services Block Grant for Connecticut will be funded at the level of \$8,404,600. In the event that anticipated funding is either increased or reduced, federal law, as noted above, specifies the proportion of funds allocated to Community Action Agencies, Discretionary Programs and Administration.

H. State Allocation Planning Process

Sections 17b-885 through 17b-895 of the Connecticut General Statutes reflect the federal requirements and further stipulate that funds be distributed through an agreement negotiated between the Department and Community Action Agencies. Under the present agreement, negotiated and implemented in 1997, each CAA will receive a base amount that equals one-half of their FFY 1996 allocation. Remaining funds are allocated to CAAs based on the number of individuals in each CAA service area (as a proportion of the state total) at or below 125% of the federal poverty guideline according to census data.

I. Grant Provisions

In order to obtain CSBG funding, Connecticut must submit and obtain federal approval of the state plan that satisfies the requirements of Sec. 676 of the Reauthorization Act. Under these requirements, the state must:

- designate a state agency to serve as lead agency;
- hold a public hearing to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed use of funds;
- conduct monitoring in accordance with Section 678B of the Reauthorization Act;
- hold a legislative hearing at least once every three (3) years in conjunction with the development of the state plan;
- use funds received to support activities which assist low-income families and individuals to:
 1. achieve self-sufficiency;
 2. secure and retain meaningful employment;
 3. attain an adequate education;
 4. make better use of available income;
 5. obtain and maintain adequate housing;
 6. obtain emergency assistance; and
 7. achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community;
- address the needs of youth in low-income communities;
- assure that CSBG funds are used to coordinate with and make more effective use of other programs with related purposes;
- describe how it uses its discretionary funds;
- include information provided by eligible entities on how CSBG funds will be used;
- assure that eligible entities provide emergency food, supplies and related services to combat hunger and malnutrition;
- assure that the state and eligible entities coordinate with and establish linkages between governmental and other programs to avoid duplication;
- provide for coordination between programs to ensure that energy crisis intervention programs are conducted in each community;

- assure that the state will cooperate with related federal investigations;
- assure that funding for eligible entities will not be terminated or reduced below their proportional share without cause;
- provide opportunities for state and eligible entities to form partnerships with other organizations, including religious, charitable and community organizations;
- establish mechanisms for low-income individuals or organizations that feel they are under-represented on the board of a CAA to petition for representation;
- require that each CAA submit a Community Action Plan as a condition of funding;
- require that all eligible entities participate in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability system; and
- require that each eligible entity have a Board of Directors composed of equal numbers of low-income persons, local elected officials or their designees, and other individuals or organizations serving low-income people in the community.

Connecticut's most recent federal CSBG plan was approved for the period October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2010.

II. Tables

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Table A

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

PROGRAM CATEGORY	FFY '08 Expenditure	FFY '09 Estimated Expenditure	FFY '10 Proposed Expenditure
Grants to Eligible Entities	\$7,107,899	\$7,666,411	\$8,094,100
Discretionary Programs	190,025	383,611	420,230
Administration	317,854	257,105	420,230
TOTAL	\$7,615,778	\$8,307,127	\$8,934,560
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
Block Grant	\$7,843,496	\$8,393,383	\$8,404,600
Carry Forward from Previous Year	215,986	443,704	529,960
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$8,059,482	\$8,837,087	\$8,934,560

Table B

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

	FFY '08 Expenditure	FFY '09 Estimated Expenditure	FFY '10 Proposed Expenditure
Number of Positions (FTE)	2.0	1.4	2.4
Personal Services	\$170,262	\$131,239	\$191,900
Fringe Benefits	\$91,399	\$68,991	\$100,900
Other Expenses	\$56,193	\$56,875	\$127,430
Equipment			
Contracts			
Grants to:			
Local Government			
Other State Agencies			
Private agencies	7,297,924	\$8,050,022	\$8,514,330
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$7,615,778	\$8,307,127	\$8,934,560
	Sources of FFY '08 Allocations	Sources of FFY '09 Allocations	Sources of FFY '10 Allocations
Carry Forward from Previous Year	\$215,986	\$443,704	\$529,960
Federal Block Grant Funds	7,843,496	8,393,383	8,404,600
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS	\$8,059,482	\$8,837,087	\$8,934,560

Table C

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

SUMMARY OF SERVICE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Service Category	Objective	Service/Activity	Number Served FFY 08
Core Funding for Eligible Entities	Provide core administrative support for CAAs to organize services and coordinate funding for programs that serve individuals and families at or below 125% of the federal poverty level.	Provide planning, administrative and financial management support to Community Action Agencies to coordinate grants and services to low-income residents.	294,232 persons served through 12 CAAs in FFY 08*.

* As reported in Part I, Section G, Lines 3 and 4 of the annual federal CSBG MIS report for 2008.

III. ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM CATEGORY

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FFY 09 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES AND FFY 10 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

Major Program Categories	FFY 2009 Estimated Expenditures (including carry forward funds)	FFY 2010 Proposed Expenditures (including carry forward funds)
Grants to Eligible Entities		
Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (ABCD)	\$924,660	\$938,658
ACCESS Agency, Inc.	454,489	486,383
Bristol Community Organization, Inc. (BCO)	205,013	208,612
Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)	1,123,869	1,168,389
Community Action for Committee of Danbury, Inc. (CACD)	267,193	321,547
Community Renewal Team of Greater Hartford, Inc. (CRT)	1,817,882	1,935,459
CTE, Inc.	408,995	400,778
Human Resource Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRANB)	326,636	343,498
Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Inc. (NEON)	220,691	244,281
New Opportunities, Inc. (NO)	962,580	1,088,791
TEAM, Inc.	229,109	237,369
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)	491,380	485,606
Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. (CAFCA)	233,914	234,729
Formula Allocations – Total	7,666,411	8,094,100
Discretionary Programs	383,611	420,230
State Agency Administration	257,105	420,230
TOTAL CSBG	\$8,307,127	\$8,934,560